

Central Roanoke Mobility Study I-581/220 Corridor

October 18, 2005 4:00PM-7:00PM
Roanoke Performing Arts Theatre Mezzanine

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Roanoke welcome you to the Citizen Information Meeting about current congestion problems and future improvement needs within the Interstate 581/Route 220 Corridor.

Study Overview

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Roanoke are working with the engineering consulting firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern (HSMM) to provide a transportation needs study within the Interstate 581/Route 220 corridor from just north of the Orange Avenue interchange to just south of the Wonju Street interchange. This study also will examine major roadways connected to and affected by the I-581/Route 220 corridor (see the study area map).

The study addresses short-term (year 2005), mid-term (year 2015) and long-term (year 2025) conditions.



Tight ramp radii and short weave areas create difficulty entering and exiting at Orange Avenue.

The goal is to develop design concepts for possible future improvements that are highly functional, compatible with local community goals, environmentally sound and economically feasible. Both VDOT and the City of Roanoke Engineering and Planning staffs are involved and serve on the study steering committee.

Early Findings



I-581/Route 220 corridor impacts traffic flow on local interchanges like Elm Avenue.

The initial phase of the Central Roanoke Mobility Study focused on identifying problems. This phase involved collecting and analyzing traffic volumes and crash data to provide an objective, quantitative assessment of current traffic conditions and the safety of the corridor. The study team conducted capacity analysis of dozens of key intersections within the corridor (see map, inside). These intersections have been analyzed individually (to determine how well traffic flows based on the layout and traffic levels within the intersection) and collectively along key

STUDY INFORMATION

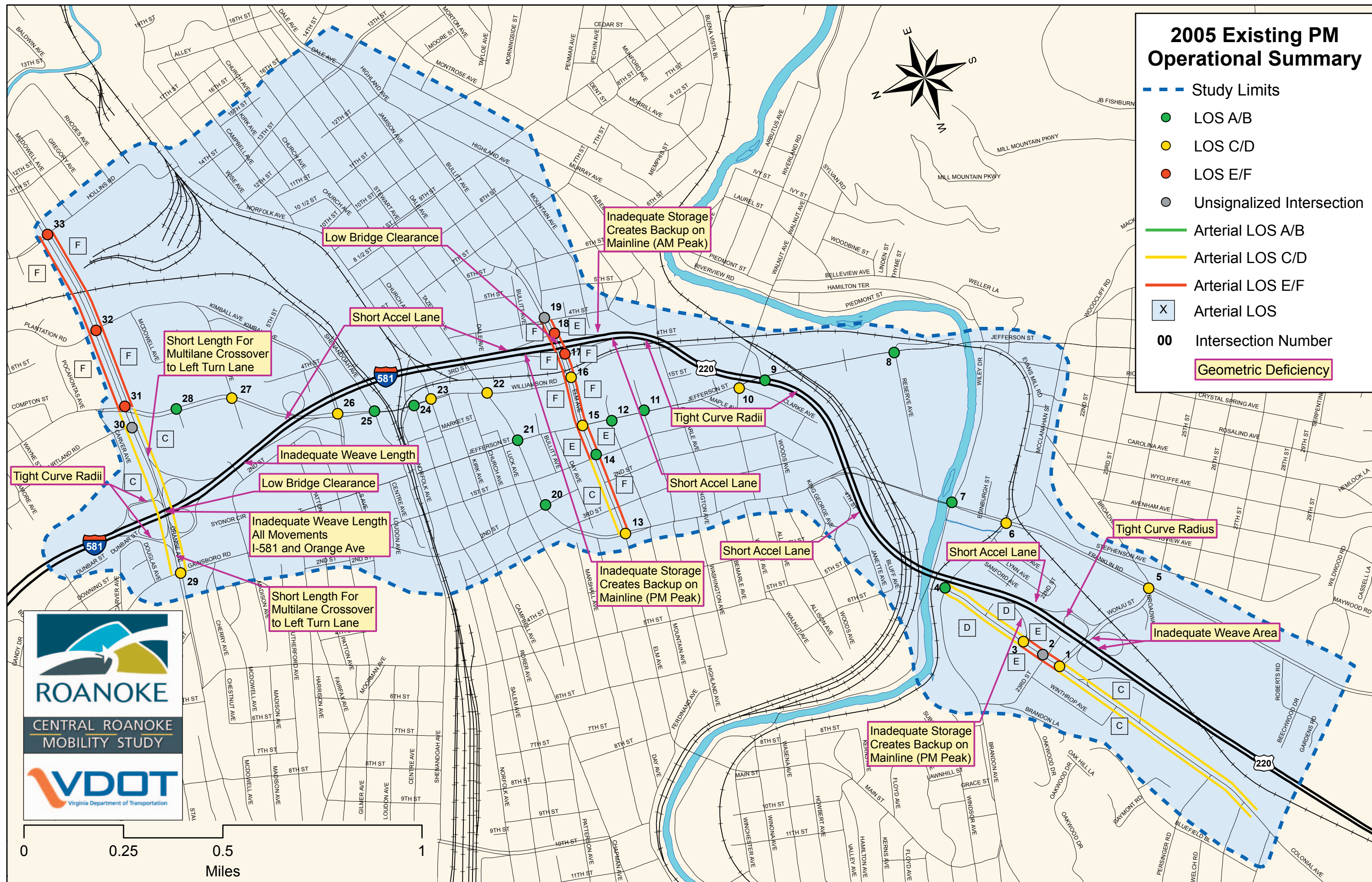
From:
South of Wonju Street

To:
North of Orange Avenue

RFP No.
TMPD 05-01

Representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the City of Roanoke are present to discuss the study and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of the VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

For further information, contact VDOT, Salem District Office of Civil Rights, 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, VA 24153, or call (540) 375-3565, toll free (800) 611-5812, or TDD 711.



Findings (continued)

major roadways (to determine how nearby intersections affect each other). A level of service (LOS) was determined for each intersection using a grading scale with “A” representing free-flowing traffic and “F” indicating overloaded streets and gridlock conditions.

The preliminary results are shown on the enclosed map and probably will not surprise many drivers familiar with the corridor. Several intersections, particularly along Elm Avenue and Orange Avenue, are at or beyond capacity and experience recurring, significant delays.

In addition to level of service analysis, the Study Team has identified a number of geometric deficiencies along the corridor, including narrow shoulders, short acceleration lanes, inadequate weave zones, insufficient ramp storage, tight ramp radii, and low bridge clearances. These deficiencies degrade operations and create potential safety concerns on the mainline and at interchanges.



I-581/Route 220 corridor at downtown Roanoke.

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How Can You Help

The study team is working to create an accurate computer model of future traffic conditions. In addition to the model, the study wants to collect experiences of drivers and residents in the corridor. Early comments have been received from focus groups and are summarized on displays at this meeting. We want to add your comments and opinions as we move ahead to the recommendations phase of the study.

Next Steps

After this meeting, the study team will begin developing road improvement options to address some of the problems identified. Some of these options may be relatively low-cost and easily implemented short-term measures, such as modifying signal timing or extending a turn lane. For the mid- and long-term conditions, much more extensive (and likely expensive) options, such as partial or complete reconstruction of interchanges or new connections, will be developed along with budget-level cost estimates. These solutions will be presented at the second Citizen Information Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2006.

Additional Information

Study information shared here is available for review after the public hearing at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, (540) 375-3565.

Written comments and other exhibits related to the study may be submitted in place of or in addition to statements made at the meeting. Such information must be postmarked or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days (on or before Oct. 28, 2005) of today's meeting in order to be included in the public hearing transcript. Please send written comments to:

Virginia Department of Transportation
Michael Gray
Salem District Planning Manager
731 Harrison Avenue
P.O. Box 3071
Salem, VA 24153
Telephone: (540) 375-3565
TDD/TTY: 711

Please call prior to visiting to assure the availability of staff to assist you.



CENTRAL ROANOKE
MOBILITY STUDY

